

## **CALIFORNIA**

### **18 Arrested In Reedley As Part of Operation "Red-Out"**

A major operation by local law enforcement agencies has put 18 people behind bars, and taken dozens of weapons off of valley streets.

On Tuesday, over 200 officers with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Reedley Police Department and several other agencies came together for Operation Goldstar-Mission: RED-OUT.

The operation was intended to address gang violence in the City of Reedley, and nearby areas.

Officers served search warrants in 17 different locations, which resulted in the seizure of 30 weapons, 20 lbs of marijuana, \$7,000 in cash and netted the arrest of 18 people.

Officers say that 11 of the 18 arrested are connected with 4 different homicides dating back to 2002.

The investigation remains on-going, and officers say more arrests and charges are expected.

<http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=13392917>

### **Salinas Schools Talk Gangs**

*Posted: Oct 25, 2010 10:53 PM PDT Updated: Oct 25, 2010 10:53 PM PDT*

SALINAS, Calif. - Monday night, the Monterey County Gang Task Force warned schools about the failure to stop gangs. Schools said enough is enough, after three shootings at or near high schools in Salinas this month. More than 20 schools attended their first training session on gang prevention at the Monterey County Board of Education. The Gang Task Force told them "don't be naïve. These aren't just kids, they're gang members."

"The community just doesn't see gang activity as a problem. Unfortunately it has just become a way of life in Salinas," Chris Plummer with the Monterey County Gang Task Force.

Now, Monterey County School Leaders want to change that. Monday night, they learned how they can crack down on gangs on campus. Gang task force commander Bob Eggers is also a school board member and said the big problem is a lack of knowledge.

"If you go to any school district, they can handle an earthquake, a fire, any natural disaster perfectly. I'd like to see that same kind of perfection come with dealing with the gang members and the issues that they bring to the local school campuses," said Monterey County Gang Task Force Commander Bob Eggers.

Schools said they knew something must be done, and the recent violence exasperated the situation.

"I think this meeting is great. It's much needed," said Kathryn Ramirez, Salinas Union High School District.

Schools know this is just the first step in keeping gangs off their campuses.

"I had the opportunity to go to Alisal High School's campus after the shooting of the young man, of the killing, and the students told us they were really proud they stuck together, that they got throughout this. But, they're tired of it. They want this to stop," said Ramirez.

This is one of many training sessions to come. The next one has yet to be set.

<http://www.kcba.com/Global/story.asp?S=13386665>

## **AROUND THE U.S...**

### **Stopping youth violence before it starts**

#### **Lancaster city meetings planned**

By BERNARD HARRIS, Staff Writer

In Reading recently, children walking to school found the body of what appeared to be a murdered 18-year-old man on a baseball field.

A month before, a 15-year-old boy was beaten and shot in Reading. Four teens were charged with killing the boy and stealing his sneakers.

Lancaster, fortunately, has not seen that level of teen violence being experienced in Reading, just 30 miles away, said Joe Morales, executive director of Lancaster Community Safety Coalition.

But Lancaster has in the past — and could again — if steps are not taken to prevent teen violence and ensure neighborhood safety. That's why the Community Safety Coalition, along with Lancaster city police and three other city organizations, plan to hold a series of community meetings focused on teens and promoting neighborhood development initiatives.

"It's not an epidemic here, but what we see nationally with bullying, cyberbullying, sexting ... we want to deal with it before it becomes a big problem here," Morales said.

The first of the meetings will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave. The public is encouraged to attend.

The Community Safety Coalition, which is best known for its cameras that monitor the city's public spaces, will be joined at the meeting by school-based city police officers, members of the Bright Side Baptist Church youth group and a man who was a lawbreaker as a teen.

Kevin Ditzler, the coalition's development coordinator, said the program is intended to bring different perspectives to the discussion.

"We hope to spark a good Q and A to get the community perspective as well," Ditzler said.

The forum is an outgrowth of Lancaster Anti-Violent Crime Reduction Initiative, a collaboration of police, community members and organizations formed to address neighborhood crime by identifying low-level criminals and giving them the opportunity to go straight.

The program, in which two of four drug dealers identified last year went straight, is based on a successful model from High Point, N.C. The program pulled together groups, including clergy members, the school district and the Weed & Seed program.

Morales said he wanted to see the collaboration continue in a long-term meaningful way.

"I hope this is the beginning," Morales said of Thursday's meeting.

The group plans listening sessions with neighborhood representatives in the coming months. Then, after the start of the new year, additional citywide public meetings will be held in the four quadrants of the city, Morales said.

Morales, who also is a Lancaster City Council member, said the meetings will not be political.

Morales and Ditzler said they hope the listening sessions will steer participants to issues or concerns that residents feel need to be addressed in their neighborhoods. That will allow those concerns to be more widely discussed by residents at the quadrant meetings.

Morales, who returned recently from a crime-prevention conference in Canada, said he was inspired by stories he heard there.

Neighborhood improvement efforts that get neighbors working together — such as planting a community garden, or a public art project — can build relationships that can deter crime. Being a good neighbor also can deter crimes such as burglary.

"I think it's about building a community that cares about its neighbors," Morales said.

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/305274#ixzz13bHepOah>

## **UNC initiative hopes to tackle youth violence in Robeson County**

By [POOJA CHANDRAMOULEESWARAN](#) | The Daily Tar Heel *Updated: 1:05 AM*

A first-of-its-kind initiative headed by the University will aim to address the increasing trend of adolescent violence in a rural county of North Carolina.

UNC researchers received a federal grant of \$6.5 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to plan and carry out violence prevention activities.

The grant will also set up the nation's first rurally focused youth violence prevention center, as well as North Carolina's first center committed to preventing youth violence. The five-year project will focus on Robeson County, whose economic downturn has led to a high level of youth violence.

“Robeson is one of the largest counties in North Carolina, and also the poorest,” said Connie Oxendine, the services program administrator for the county’s social services department. “We don’t have a lot of resources for our youth, particularly in the areas of substance abuse and domestic violence.”

The UNC School of Social Work, UNC Injury Prevention Research Center and various community partners in Robeson County are working to reach the goal of reducing youth violence in the county.

Paul Smokowski, the leading investigator in the team of UNC researchers, said the University beat out universities in Illinois and Michigan, including the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, for the center. He said Robeson County, which borders South Carolina, was chosen as the grant’s beneficiary because of its ethnic diversity and struggles with poverty and violence.

More than 68 percent of Robeson County’s 129,000 residents are American Indian, black or Latino. The median household income in 2008 was \$30,932.

The program will collaborate with community groups and focus on activities that enrich academic advancement, prevent violence, address family stress and enhance public school programming, Smokowski said.

“Our short-term goal is to create a youth violence initiative that will be implemented next year and evaluate that initiative to make sure it is efficient,” he said.

Elizabeth Knight, a research scientist in the Injury Prevention Research Center associated with the project, said a pre-doctoral fellowship is available for students who have a master’s degree in a social science discipline and want to assist with the project.

“Our long-term goal is to give the citizens of the county happy, productive lives, reduce youth violence and build some interventions to reduce violence,” she said.

[http://www.dailytarheel.com/index.php/article/2010/10/unc\\_initiative\\_hopes\\_to\\_tackle\\_youth\\_violence\\_in\\_robeson\\_county](http://www.dailytarheel.com/index.php/article/2010/10/unc_initiative_hopes_to_tackle_youth_violence_in_robeson_county)

## **ASK THE CHIEF**

KIIIITV News

Story Created: Oct 27, 2010 at 8:16 AM CDT

Story Updated: Oct 27, 2010 at 8:16 AM CDT

October 27, 2010

On 3 News First Edition, Corpus Christi Police Chief Troy Riggs joined us to discuss community and crime issues. He also released information on a new program for Corpus Christi called the 'Crossroads'

He described the gang violence reduction program as a multi-agency approach.

18 adults (ten under Probation and eight under Parole supervision), have been identified for participation.

These so called "high-risk" participants are confirmed gang members with a felony record and have been referred to this project for services and assistance. They will be enrolled in CrossRoads for six months.

Services available to them will include: employment training and placement assistance, substance abuse counseling, educational programs and faith-based services. In addition, participants will receive instructions on how to access these services.

The primary goal is to change the participant's behavior by providing positive choices and making them responsible for those choices.

These men are at a 'CrossRoads' in their life where the right decision MUST be made; otherwise, they will face consequences. Those agencies taking part in the program are as followed.

Corpus Christi Police Department

Nueces County District Attorney's Office

Texas State Parole Office

Nueces County Adult Probation Department

Educational Opportunity Center-Adult Education

Texas Workforce Solutions

Charlie's Place

Justice of the Peace, Pct.1

Mission of Mercy Organization

Faith-Base Organizations

[HTTP://WWW.KIITV.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/ASK-THE-CHIEF-105859108.HTML](http://www.kiitv.com/news/local/ask-the-chief-105859108.html)

## **Parents, prisoners discuss plan to curb gang violence**

Peace Initiative Symposium planned for December

By VAL HYMES, For The Capital

Capital Gazette Communications

Published 10/23/10

It was an unlikely setting, but the message was all too familiar.

At a meeting this week with prisoners, the parents of a Crofton teenager murdered by gang members vowed to continue touting a gang Peace Initiative in the hope it can help end violence in their neighborhood.

Jennifer S. Adkins and David L. Jones, parents of 14-year-old Christopher Jones, and Arthur K. Huseonica, vice-chair, Crofton Regional Community Center, visited the Jessup Correctional Institution with the Extra Legalese Group (ELG), a think tank, to discuss how the inmates plan to stop gang violence from behind bars.

"It was very moving," said Adkins. "I would like to see their peace initiative become a reality." Her son was killed May 30, 2009, while riding a bike in his neighborhood.

"We have to reach across walls to address these problems. You men have been there in the past. You have walked in their shoes. Because of who you are and where you are, they're apt to listen to you," Warden John S. Wolfe told the legal group.

The group plans to hold a Peace Initiative Symposium in December, which will include community and church leaders, gang members and at-risk children. Another conference will be held in a community where video conferencing can include the inmates.

"We will engage the leaders," said Robert T. Morgan, ELG spokesman. "We will ask them to give us a trial period, to ratchet down the violence, to renounce the initiation rite of targeting innocent people and to create a different relationship with the community."

The Wednesday meeting was attended by Sen. Edward Reilly, R-Crofton, who offered his support, and leaders of other community groups and churches, including Safe Streets Baltimore, the NAACP, the Jericho Reentry Program, the Nation of Islam, the Maryland Justice Policy Institute and several inmate organizations.

"The focus has to be on youth in schools, before they join gangs," said Frank Dunbaugh, MJPI director, joining others who questioned using expulsions and suspensions for problem children.

Gardnel Carter of Safe Streets Baltimore, which patrols East Baltimore and works with gang members, said, "They feel the need to belong to something. And retaliation is high. We fault the education system. To kick them out is to fail them."

Adkins said they would like to see representatives of Safe Streets attend a community meeting.

Community leaders are planning to propose a Gang Peace Summit in 2011.

"If inmates serving life in prison have the solutions," Adkins said, "then we need to use their tools and resources to make our streets safer."

<http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/nbh/2010/10/23-09/Parents-prisoners-discuss-plan-to-curb-gang-violence.html>